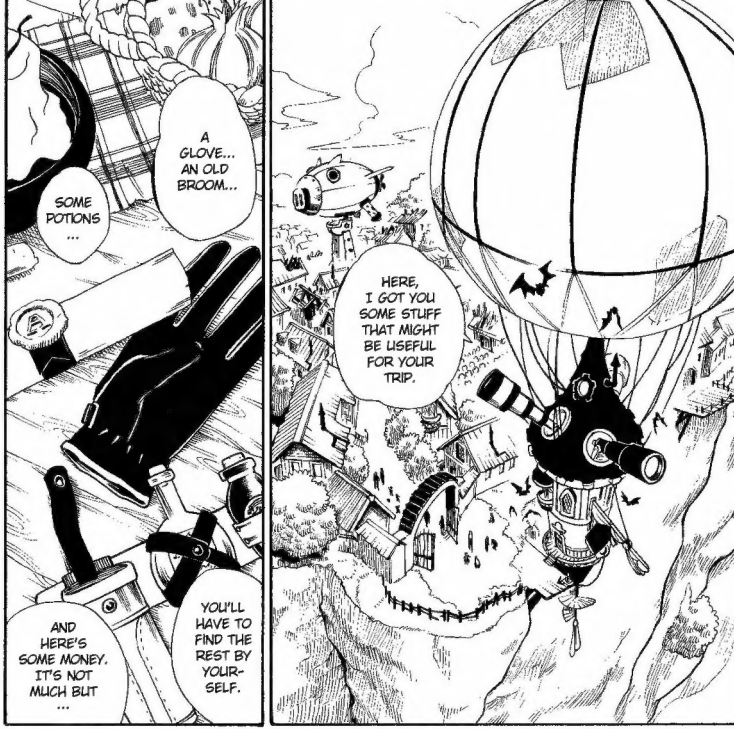
Chapter 3

The Horned Boy And The Witch


HERE, I GOT YOU SOME STUFF THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR YOUR TRIP.
A GLOVE... AN OLD BROOM...
SOME POTIONS ...
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND THE REST BY YOUR-SELF.
AND HERE'S SOME MONEY. IT'S NOT MUCH BUT ...

THERE'S NOTHING IN THERE !!!
WHO DO YOU TAKE ME FOR? SOME GREAT BUSINESS-MAN?
I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO LEAVE JUST LIKE THAT!
SO BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU GET!

THEY MUST COME FROM SOME-WHERE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE IS NO SOURCE!

YOU'RE AWARE THAT NOTHING PROVES THAT THE NEMESIS ALL COME FROM THE SAME PLACE RIGHT?
IT'S JUST WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVE.

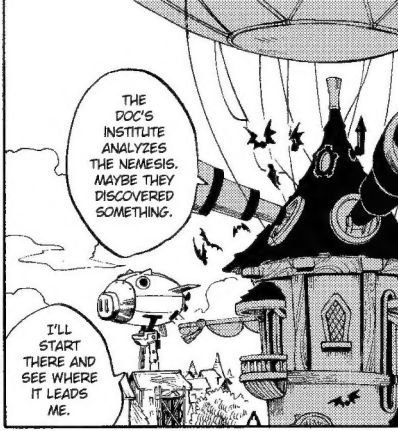
TSK... THIS IS WAY TOO QUICK!
COOL, SOME BREAD-CRUMBS.
YOU ONLY STARTED TO TALK ABOUT IT YESTERDAY AND YOU'RE ALREADY READY TO LEAVE.

...
DO YOU AT LEAST KNOW WHERE TO START SEARCHING?
YOU WON'T FIND ANY-THING JUST BY WALKING AROUND!

IN THE END WHAT YOU'RE HUNTING IS A MYTH!
EVEN THOUGH THE NEMESIS ARE A REAL THREAT...
THE RADIANT.
THOSE THAT BELIEVE IN IT CALL IT THE RADIANT.

I KILLED ONE, SO WHAT?
RIGHT NOW, OTHERS ARE FALLING FROM THE SKY TO REPLACE IT!
I STILL WANT TO FIGHT THEM!
IT'S JUST THAT ...

A WORD OF ADVICE, DON'T TRUST THE YELLOW CAT.
HMMM, THE ARTEMIS... I WOULDN'T CALL IT AN INSTITUTE ...
THE YELLOW CAT?
YEAH, JUST RE-MEMBER THAT.


THE DOC'S INSTITUTE ANALYZES THE NEMESIS. MAYBE THEY DISCOVERED SOMETHING.
I'LL START THERE AND SEE WHERE IT LEADS ME.

BUT DEEP INSIDE I CAN'T REALLY DISAGREE WITH YOU.
LISTEN... I DON'T KNOW WHAT GAVE YOU THIS STUPID IDEA ...

HE MIGHT MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO WHAT I COULD NOT.
HE'S BEEN WORKING FOR THE ARTEMIS FOR YEARS, HE SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND.
FIRST, YOU NEED TO SEE SOMEONE CALLED YAGA.
DO WHAT?
YOUR HAIR?

BUT I STILL WANT YOU TO PROMISE ME TWO THINGS.
?

GREAT SORCERER... YEAAH.
YAGA IS ONE OF THE GREATEST SORCERERS I KNOW...
HE'LL TEACH YOU THE BASICS.
YOUR "PARTICULAR" SKILLS WON'T STAY UNNOTICED FOR LONG AND I WON'T BE HERE TO COVER FOR YOU.
MY HAIR IS FINE. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN TALK.
SO IT'S VITAL THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO DO "NORMAL" MAGIC BEFORE GOING OFF ON YOUR JOURNEY.
AH, NICE.
THE VILLAGERS AGREED TO PUT THE BLAME ON THE BRAVERY QUARTET FOR THE DAMAGES, EVEN THE ONES YOU CAUSED.
I'LL STAY AROUND UNTIL THE INQUISITOR SHOWS UP...
USE THIS IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT ME, YOU'LL JUST NEED SOME PARCHMENT.
AH, I ALMOST FORGOT !
THE POTION OF AMNESY DIDN'T STOP THEM FROM CONSPIRING.
THE IDENTITY SUBSTITUTION?
BUT... DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO DO THIS?

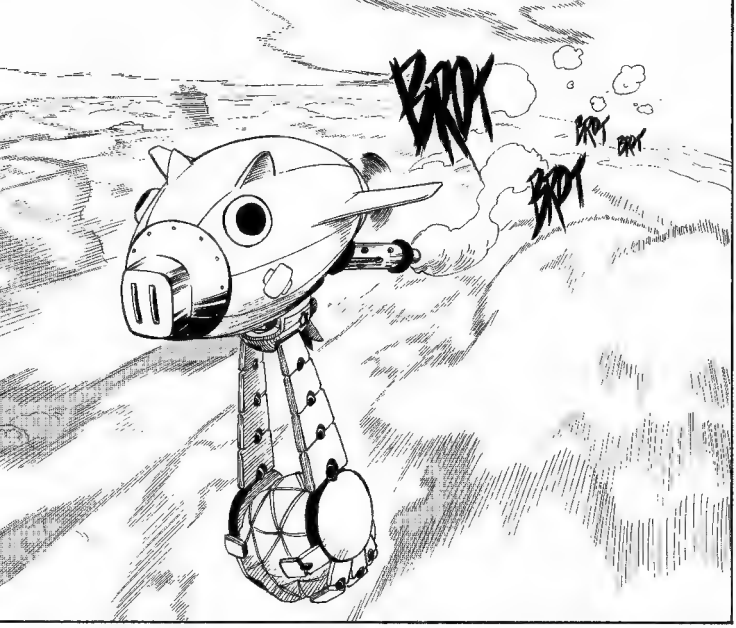
AND THEN WE'LL HAND THEM OVER.
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY... IT'LL PASS IN A FEW DAYS AND THEY'LL STOP BELIEVING THEY'RE CHICKEN.
TOO BAD, THEY LOOK HAPPY LIKE THAT.
THEY WOULDN'T STOP! "MY UNDERWEAR SHOOTS LIGHTNING", "I HAVE A HIDDEN KNIFE IN MY AFRO"... THERE'S EVEN ONE THAT TRIED TO POISON ME WITH HIS BREATH AFTER NOT OPENING HIS MOUTH FOR TWO DAYS...
SETH...
THERE'S ANOTHER THING YOU MUST PROMISE ME...
YES?

THE NEMESIS ARE FAR FROM THE WORST THINGS YOU CAN MEET OUT THERE...
INQUISITORS, SORCERERS... SCUM THAT BELIEVE THEY ARE RIGHT, USING THEIR POWER TO FORCE PEOPLE TO JOIN THEM.
DON'T BECOME A MONSTER.

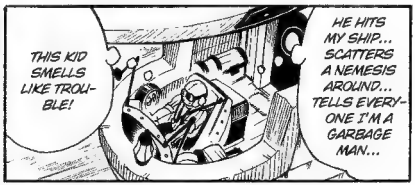
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!!
"YOU'RE NOT BORN HUMAN, YOU BECOME ONE."
IT'S A DAY-TO-DAY JOB.
YOUR GOOD INTENTIONS DON'T MAKE YOU RIGHT.
SO GET THIS INTO YOUR HEAD...
BROOM
!
DON'T PRETEND, I KNOW YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAID.
DAMN SHE GOT ME!
?
BUT I GUESS YOU'LL GET IT ONE DAY.
GOOD-BYE!!
RUN!
DON'T LOSE HIM IF YOU WANT TO GET ON THE ARTEMIS.
FARE-WELL, KID!

THANK YOU.
COME ON, STOP CRYING AND GO.
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO LOSE HIM.
FWIT
FWIT
...
SNIFF
EWW!! IS THAT SNOT?!
GET OFF ME, YOU'RE DISGUST-ING!
WITH
I'M NOT EVEN CRYING!
YOU JUST SMELL REALLY BAD!
SNIFF
IT'S MAKING MY EYES STING!!

I'LL FINALLY GET SOME TIME ALONE!
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
THAT'S RIGHT, GO AWAY!
I'LL HAVE SOME PEACE.
SOME QUIET.
FINALLY!
SNIFF!
YOU IDIOT.
OUT OF MY WAY!
BAOOF

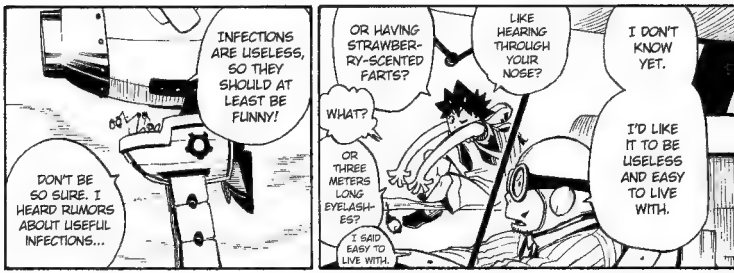

BRDY
BRDY
BRDY

YOU COULD HAVE WARNED ME!
!!


THIS KID SMELLS LIKE TROUBLE!
HE HITS MY SHIP... SCATTERS A NEMESIS AROUND... TELLS EVERYONE I'M A GARBAGE MAN...

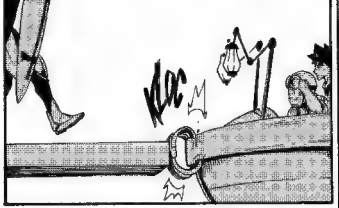
...
EVEN NOW I CAN STILL SEE HIM!
I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER LET ME GO!
I'M COMING WITH YOU!
LET ME HELP YOU!

WHAT'S YOUR INFECTION, THEN?
A PHYSICAL ONE, LIKE MY HORNS?
OR ONE YOU CAN'T SEE, LIKE ALMA'S PAIN?
NOT ALL! THAT'S MY SURVIVAL INSTINCT. IT'S NORMAL TO BE AFRAID.
AND I'M VERY NORMAL!
YOU'RE A TENSE ONE, AREN'T YOU!
IS THAT YOUR INFECTION? YOU'RE SUPER ANXIOUS?
YOU NUMBSKULL!!
IT TOOK ME THREE HOURS TO CATCH UP TO YOU!
I NEARLY DROPPED THE SPECIMEN!

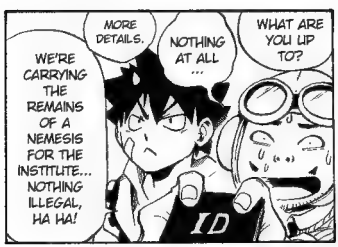

INFECTIONS ARE USELESS, SO THEY SHOULD AT LEAST BE FUNNY!
DON'T BE SO SURE. I HEARD RUMORS ABOUT USEFUL INFECTIONS...
OR HAVING STRAWBERRY-SCENTED FARTS?
LIKE HEARING THROUGH YOUR NOSE?
I DON'T KNOW YET.
WHAT?
OR THREE METERS LONG EYELASHES?
I'D LIKE IT TO BE USELESS AND EASY TO LIVE WITH.
I SAID EASY TO LIVE WITH.

SINCE THEY ALWAYS DISAPPEAR!
BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ASK THOSE INFECTED ...

BUT IT'S BETTER TO NOT TALK ABOUT IT... NOBODY BELIEVES IT.
JUST LIKE THE RADIANT.
?!
STOP RIGHT THERE, SORCERERS!
DRAGUNOV
- Captain Inquisitor -


KLIC

AND YOU, GET OFF YOUR BROOM.
STOP THE ENGINES, WE'RE GETTING ON.
SHOW US YOUR PAPERS!


MORE DETAILS.
NOTHING AT ALL ...
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
WE'RE CARRYING THE REMAINS OF A NEMESIS FOR THE INSTITUTE... NOTHING ILLEGAL, HA HA!
ID

HEY, WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE BRAVERY ...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE...

ANY INFO ABOUT A GROUP OF CROOKS OPERATING AROUND HERE?
NOT INTERESTING.
THE... THE "BEVERY CARPET" ?
THEY'RE ONE OF YOURS, IT SHOULD RING A BELL.

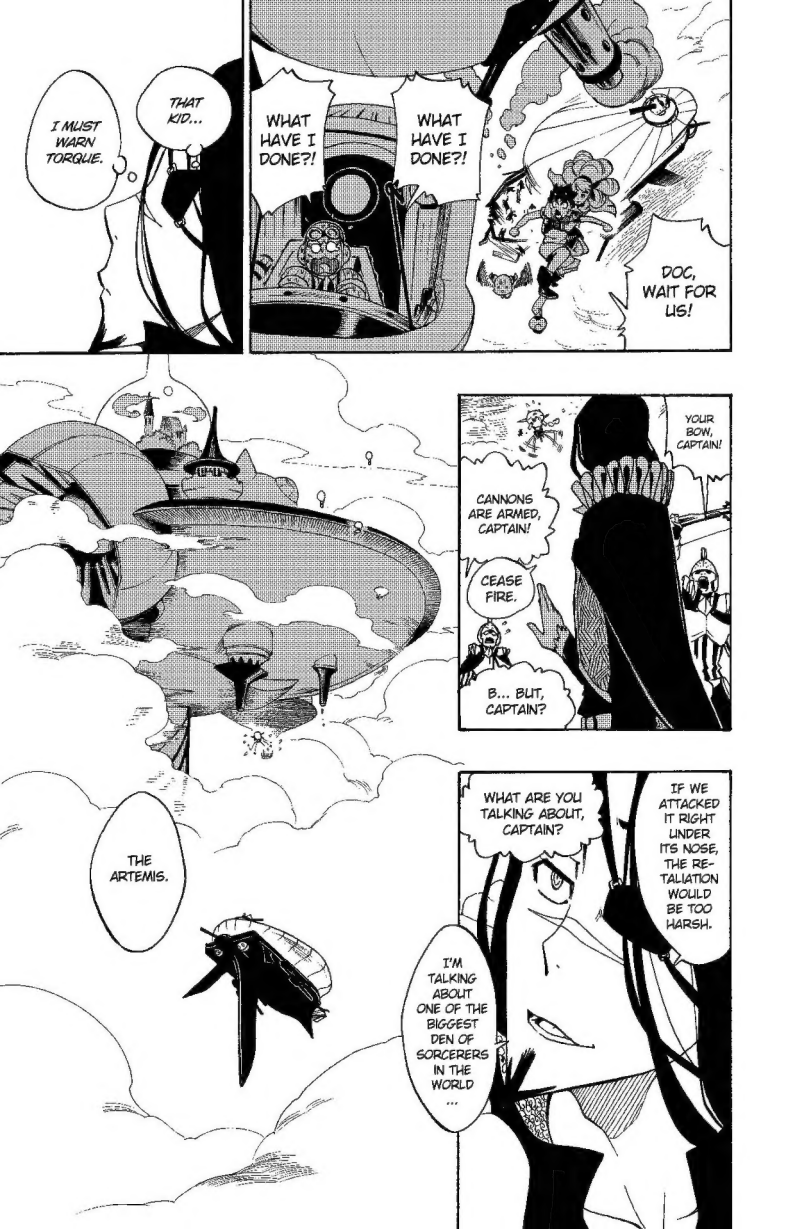
NOT ONLY, SORCERER.
WE WERE SENT HERE BECAUSE OF TWO BANDITS.

A LONG-HAIRED WITCH AND A HORNED BOY, LIKE A WILD ANIMAL."
THAT'S THE DESCRIPTION WE WERE GIVEN.
THE WITCH GAVE US A HARD TIME.
SHE'LL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR HER CRIMES BEFORE THE ARDENT CHAMBER.
ALMA ?!
BUT I WAS WITH HER JUST A FEW HOURS AGO! HOW...
AN ACCOMPLICE?
SOLDIERS, HANDCUFF THESE PEOPLE!

IT'S NOT THE TIME TO GET A DRINK!
I SWEAR, I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM!
TOO MANY PEOPLE, TOO MANY WEAPONS... SHIT!
WHIZ
?!

FFJSHH
KA
BKO
?!
I'M A CAPTAIN INQUISITOR, YOU KNOW.
HOW INSULTING!
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD TOUCH ME WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
CHAP
YOU WERE AIMING FOR THE CAGE.
CLEVER BOY...
YOUR HAND!
AAAH... I'LL HAVE TO GET INVOLVED.
CAPTAIN, UP THERE !!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
THANKS!
MY ESCORT? WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?
FLAP
SEIZE THAT ONE.
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THOSE TWO... SIGH...
MY BOW!
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!!
BUT I... I DIDN'T ...
ANY-THING ...
DO...
I...


I MUST WARN TORQUE.
THAT KID...
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
DOC, WAIT FOR US!
YOUR BOW, CAPTAIN!
CANNONS ARE ARMED, CAPTAIN!
CEASE FIRE.
B... BUT, CAPTAIN?
THE ARTEMIS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CAPTAIN?
IF WE ATTACKED IT RIGHT UNDER ITS NOSE, THE RETALIATION WOULD BE TOO HARSH.
I'M TALKING ABOUT ONE OF THE BIGGEST DEN OF SORCERERS IN THE WORLD ...

SLAM
MEANWHILE...

BROUGHT TO
YOU BY:
ROL